

# Bethany Confirmation Program 2023-2024

Dear Parents of Bethany Confirmation Students,

Greetings in the name of Christ!

We give thanks to our Lord for His work of salvation given to our youth at their Baptism. As we continue to unfold the content of the faith for them, and as we instruct them toward receiving the Lord's Supper, Bethany provides a confirmation program for our youth. Our goal is to work with parents so that our confirmation youth know the faith well, are able to confess the faith confidently, continue to attend the Divine Service **weekly**, and are prepared to receive the Lord's Supper. There will be a meeting for parents and confirmation youth on **Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM** to review the program. The program includes the following components:

1) Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders: These will meet on **Sunday mornings, 10:00-10:50 AM**, in the 8th grade day school classroom at the end of the hallway. Pastor Bartens will be teaching the six chief parts of the Catechism in this class. Attendance in this class is **required**. If you will miss a class, please let Pastor Bartens know and refer to the confirmation class schedule so that you can review any missed material with your child. In the case of absence, please also make sure that week's worksheet (see below) is turned in to Pastor Bartens. Attendance will be tracked and regular absence will be addressed by Pastor Bartens with child and parents.

2) Materials: These are provided by Bethany and handed out on **August 27<sup>th</sup>**. If your child is a returning student, please have him or her bring the catechism (2017 maroon and black version) and the ESV Bible (typically maroon) received last year.

3) Worksheet Expectation: A short worksheet will be given to the students each week to be completed before the next week's class and brought with them to class. This worksheet simply puts the weekly material before the students before class so that we can make the most of our short class time. Parents are encouraged to assist their child with the worksheet as needed. Worksheets may be found online for missed classes.

4) Memory Work Expectation: It is primarily the responsibility of parents to teach their children the Scriptural faith as expressed in the Catechism and to ensure that they are memorizing it diligently. A memory schedule is on the calendar enclosed. Please initial and date the inside of your child's catechism once your child has memorized that portion adequately. If you completed this last year as a 7th grader, complete it again! Repeat it again every year from here on out! Repetition is key and is the mother of all learning! Pastor Bartens will review these signatures and may occasionally ask students to demonstrate their memorization of the catechism in class.

5) In-person Worship Expectation: Since confirmation is toward a life of receiving the Lord's gifts in the Divine Service, it is expected that the students will be in attendance **weekly** at the

Divine Service. If you are going out of town for the weekend, Pastor Bartens will be more than happy to help you find an LC-MS congregation near your destination.

6) Sermon Reports: Students should complete at least 1 report each month. The report form is available at church or on the confirmation page on the Bethany website.

<https://bethanylcs.org/confirmation-home>. Please turn in the report as soon as possible after hearing the sermon. You may return the report to Pastor Bartens' box in the church office, or email it to him at [ebartens@bethanylcs.org](mailto:ebartens@bethanylcs.org).

7) Confirmation Examinations (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only) will be scheduled with each student individually during the weeks of **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup> of 2024**. The students will not be examined in a large group. Instead, the parents of each student will schedule a time when they and their child will meet with Pastor Bartens for examination for admittance to the Lord's Supper. Pastor Clemmer, Pastor Schumacher, and a representative from the board of elders may also be present. More details will be provided as the time draws closer.

8) Confirmation Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> only) is **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, during the **11 AM** service. Please come at the 10:00 a.m. class time for final instructions and walkthrough.

9) Junior High Youth Events: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students are encouraged to attend junior high youth events throughout the year when possible. Once compiled, a schedule of these events will be available on the Youth page of Bethany's website.

10) Confirmation Fee (8<sup>th</sup> only): The \$20 fee goes toward the confirmation certificate/frame, the boutonniere worn on confirmation Sunday. Please submit the fee to Pam Kolzow or Beth Hahn as soon as possible after classes begin. Checks can be made payable to Bethany.

I look forward to teaching our confirmation class this year, and await with joyful expectation the day when these young people will partake of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. If you have any questions about the program or expectations, you may email me at [ebartens@bethanylcs.org](mailto:ebartens@bethanylcs.org) or give me a call at (618) 421-5219.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Bartens